GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:642
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2006
PERMISSION TO PRIVATE AIRLINES FOR INTERNATIONAL ROUTES
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) The criteria laid down for any airline to operate in the international routes;

(b)Whether the Government is aware that the Indians settled in Arab countries are facing a lot of hardships due to inadequacy of flights particularly in the Arab sector;

(c) If so, whether the Government proposes to relax the rules to facilitate the private operators to run on the international routes;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a): Under the existing guidelines, Indian scheduled Carriers having experience of continuous operations of 5 yeras in the domestic sector and having a minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft are permitted to operate on international routes, except to Gulf countries of UAE,Qatar,Oman Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

(b): At present, the traffic entitlements available for Indian as well as foreign carriers under India-Gulf countries bilaterals, is far in exces of the requirements of the India-Gulf route. During the off peak period, most of the flights operates with a seat factor of approx 60% leaving a large number of seats available and during the peak periods, airlines operate extra section flights to meet the demand.Apart from it, during the recently held bilateral consultations with Oman, Qatar and UAE, the capacity entitlement has been liberalized considerably.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): The existing guidelines for the international operations by the scheduled Indian carriers has been stipulated keeping in view, inter alia, the smooth operations on international routes together with ensuring compliance of existing safety norms and also to ensure that the airlines concerned have all necessary infrastructure and facilities in place before commencement of international operations.